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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

29
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 11, 1961
DATE

REF : Department's Instruction A-173, April 13, 1961;
Embassy's D-806, May 26, 1961, same subject.

(11)

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	REC'D 7-19	OTHER CIA-10

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: Lee Harvey Oswald

Lee Harvey OSWALD appeared at the Embassy on July 8 on his own initiative in connection with his desire to return to the United States with his wife.

Oswald executed the enclosed questionnaire pertaining to possible expatriating acts and was questioned at length concerning his activities since entering the Soviet Union. No evidence was revealed of any act on his part which might have caused loss of his American citizenship. He exhibited Soviet internal "stateless" passport (vid na zhitelstvo dlya litza bez grazhdanstva) No. 311479 issued by the Moscow city government on January 14, 1960, which is prima facie evidence that he is regarded by the Soviet authorities as not possessing Soviet citizenship. Oswald stated that despite the wording of the statement which he handed to the Embassy on October 31, 1959 (Embassy despatch 234, November 2, 1959), he never in fact actually applied for Soviet citizenship. His application at that time was for permission to remain in the Soviet Union and for a temporary extension of his tourist visa pending the outcome of his request. This application, according to Oswald, contained no reference to Soviet citizenship, nor did he subsequently make any application for Soviet citizenship. The application was addressed by him to the USSR Supreme Soviet and was placed in the mail box of the Metropole Hotel. It appeared, however, to have been delivered to the central office of the Moscow OVIR and apparently was the basis of a notification to him by that office three days later of permission to remain in the Soviet Union. There was subsequently issued his present "stateless" internal passport.

Oswald stated that he has been employed since January 13, 1960, in the Belorussian Radio and TV Factory in Minsk, where he works as a metal worker in the research shop. He stated that he took no oath or affirmation or allegiance of any kind nor was he required to sign any kind of papers in connection with his employment. He gave his earnings as 90 rubles per month. He stated that he is not a member of the factory trade union organization, never having been asked to join.

Oswald stated that he had never been called upon to make any statements for radio or press or to address audiences since his arrival in the Soviet Union and that he has made no statements at any time of any exploitable nature concerning his original decision to reside in the Soviet Union. He recalled that he had

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been interviewed briefly in his room at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow on the third day after his arrival in the Soviet Union by a reporter from Radio Moscow. The reporter represented himself as seeking comments from American tourists on their impressions of Moscow. Oswald stated that he made no more than a few routine comments of a visiting tourist nature, the whole lasting no more than two or three minutes and of no political significance. When queried about a statement which he had made to the interviewing officer at the time of his first appearance at the Embassy on October 31, 1959, to the effect that he would willingly make available to the Soviet Union such information as he had acquired as a radar operator in the Marine Corps, Oswald stated that he was never in fact subjected to any questioning or briefing by the Soviet authorities concerning his life or experiences prior to entering the Soviet Union and never provided such information to any Soviet organ. He stated that he doubted in fact that he would have given such information if requested despite his statements made at the Embassy.

Oswald indicated some anxiety as to whether, should he return to the United States, he would face possible lengthy imprisonment for his act of remaining in the Soviet Union. Oswald was told informally that the Embassy did not perceive, on the basis of information in its possession, on what grounds he might be subject to conviction leading to punishment of such severity as he apparently had in mind. It was clearly stated to him, however, that the Embassy could give him no assurance as to whether upon his desired return to the United States he might be liable to prosecution for offenses committed in violation of laws of the United States or of any of its States. Oswald said he understood this. He had simply felt that in his own interest he could not go back to the United States if it meant returning to a number of years in prison, and had delayed approaching Soviet authorities concerning departing from the Soviet Union until he "had this end of the thing straightened out."

Oswald was married on April 30, 1961, to Marina Nikolaevna PUSAKOVA, a dental technician. He is attempting to arrange for his wife to join him in Moscow so that she can appear at the Embassy for a visa interview in the next day or two.

Oswald intends to institute an application for an exit visa immediately upon his return to Minsk within the next few days. His American passport was returned to him for this purpose after having been amended to be valid for direct return to the United States only. The possession of a foreign passport or similar travel document is typically a prerequisite to being permitted to file an application for a Soviet exit visa, and it was felt that there was little prospect that Oswald could accomplish anything with the Soviet officials concerned unless he displayed his American passport. Oswald's present passport expires on September 10, 1961, and it is our intention not to renew it without the Department's prior approval of the enclosed renewal application, and then only upon evidence of a present need for the renewal in connection with his efforts to return to the United States.

Twenty months of the realities of life in the Soviet Union have clearly had a maturing effect on Oswald. He stated frankly that he had learned a hard lesson the hard way and that he had been completely relieved of his illusions about the Soviet Union at the same time that he acquired a new understanding and appreciation of the United States and the meaning of freedom. Much of the arrogance and bravado which characterized him on his first visit to the Embassy appears to have left him. He stated that he is/contact with his mother and a brother in the United States. He stated that he had about 200 rubles and that he and his wife would save more for eventual costs of traveling to the United States.

Action Requested: The Department's action is requested on the enclosed application for renewal of Oswald's passport. If approved, it is requested that the Embassy be authorized to renew Oswald's passport at its discretion.

For the Ambassador:

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

Enclosures:

Questionnaire executed by Oswald, July 10, 1961.
Application for Renewal of Passport executed by Oswald, July 10, 1961.